



**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!**

THE NEWSLETTER

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INTERESTING CONVERSATION ON THE MORMON CHURCH



Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, February 24** at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2111 Camino del Rio South in Mission

Valley. The building where we meet is The United Methodist Center, in The Cove Room. Doors open at 6:45 pm. **PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE WILL MEET AT THIS LOCATION (SEE ARTICLE).**

We are pleased to have PFLAG member Shirley Clukey as our guest

speaker. Shirley and her husband, Dale, were active members of the Mormon Church (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints); Shirley formally left the church in 2008, and Dale is an inactive member. The dramatic change came about when their second child came out at age 20 and the Mormon Church was not accepting. Shirley's presentation will detail the journey she and Dale have traveled.

Please join us for support groups, cookie social, and presentation.

THE COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER



Congratulations to San Diego's (and the LGBT community's) Toni Atkins, the newly elected Assembly Speaker of the California State Assembly. Toni represents

the 78th Assembly District which encompasses the county's coastal area. Toni currently serves as the Majority Leader of the State Assembly.

Toni grew up in rural southwestern Virginia where her father was a lead and coal miner. Her mother also worked. There was no running water and her mother cooked on a wood stove – out of necessity.

Fast forward to the mid-80's when Toni moved to San Diego where she joined the staff of Womancare Health Center as Director of Clinic Services. Some

time later, she worked on Christine Kehoe's election campaign for City Council member. When Christine was elected, Toni then worked as her council representative and policy analyst. When Kehoe was elected to the state legislature, Atkins was elected to Kehoe's City Council seat and served from 2000-2008. When Mayor Dick Murphy resigned in 2005, she became the acting Mayor. Toni was elected to the State Assembly in 2010 and became Majority Leader in 2012. You are now current.

Things you may not know! Toni is the first Assembly speaker from San Diego and the first openly gay woman in the post; she is married to Jennifer LeSar and has two dogs, Haley and Joey; she played a key role in Mayor Sanders' reversing his decision about endorsing same-sex marriage. Mayor Sanders said, "She's the one who persuaded me that it was the right thing to do."

CALLING ALL LGBT SCHOLARS

PFLAG San Diego hopes everyone is busy reminding LGBT seniors, full-time undergraduate and graduate students to apply for PFLAG scholarships. This is our 16th year of offering scholarships.

The web page www.pflag.com/scholarships/ has the scholarship application, as well as the requirements. The deadline to apply is **March 15, 2014** and the awards presentation will be **May 19, 2014**.

The purpose of the awards is: to recognize outstanding LGBT youth from the community, especially for their involvement in the gay community and/or society; to encourage post-secondary education of LGBT persons; to promote a positive image of LGBT persons in society.

WE'RE MOVING!

PFLAG San Diego general meetings are moving starting **Monday, March 24**, and every 4th Monday thereafter from Mission Valley to 8804 Balboa Avenue, San Diego 92123. Meetings are on the campus of Jewish Family Service.

The site is conveniently located between 163 and 15 (it is also close to 805). There is plenty of parking. There is a map on our web site (www.pflag.com). If you need further information, please call our info line: 888-398-0006.

HELP!

Last year, we downsized our chapter library. We recently wanted to lend the DVD, *Everyone and Anyone* to someone and realized we didn't have it. We know it was not returned inadvertently, but would love to have it back. We are also missing the book, *My Princess Boy*. We hope you can all take a peek to see if you have either one. Thank you.

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Membership forms available at www.pflag.com

LOOK LIKE A BIG FISH

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Current Events

February 24
Monday
San Diego PFLAG General Meeting and Support Groups

February 24
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

March 3
Monday
PFLAG Support Group North County Coastal

March 3
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

March 10
PFLAG Support Group East County

March 10
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group

March 15
In Good Conscience LGBT Center (see article)

March 17
Monday
Mi Familia Support Group



Equality is the soul of liberty, there is, in fact, no liberty without it.

Frances Wright



Show your support! Buy ad space!

WE LOVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Please renew your membership for 2014.

Looking for the perfect way to say "I Love You"?

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MISSION STATEMENT

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through Support, to cope with an adverse society; Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

SUPPORT GROUPS

SD COUNTY GENERAL MEETING & SUPPORT GROUP

We will meet one last time February 24 at 7:00 pm, at the First United Methodist Church, 2111 Camino del Rio South in Mission Valley.

For further information, contact the Info Line: 888-398-0006 or www.pflag.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL

Meets the first Monday, at 7:00 pm, North County LGBTQ Resource Center, 510 North Coast Highway, Suite C, Oceanside.

Contact ncpflag@gmail.com or Larry Gerling, (760) 224-2178.

NORTH COUNTY INLAND

Support Groups have been temporarily discontinued

EAST COUNTY

Meets every second Monday, at 7:00 pm, Summit Unitarian Universalist Church, 8778 Cottonwood Avenue, Santee.

Contact Contact Bob Dryden: 619-334-8214 or bdryden@pflag.com

MI FAMILIA (Spanish)

Meetings are every Monday from 6:30pm - 8:30 pm at The Center.

Contact Carolina, (619) 692-2077 Ext. 116.

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

For more information on the Transgender Support Group

Contact Kathe Dunn, ftm_mom@yahoo.com.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

For the second year in a row, the **Richard P. Geysler Memorial Ethics Scholarship to Benefit LGBT Students at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation** was awarded to **Gibran Guido**. This scholarship was established through a bequest by Philip Flick. It was to honor his partner of 44 plus years and his commitment to ethics. Richard Geysler, who



passed away in 2004, was the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation's first board president and a founding member.

Gibran is currently a Ph.D. student in Literature at the University of California, San Diego. He has written and presented six conference papers on Latino male homosexuality, identity, and HIV/AIDS. Gibran was a guest speaker at three San Diego State University courses, as well as at the University of Las Vegas. Actually, his list of accomplishments are too lengthy for this article; feel free to use Google to check out his amazing accomplishments.

Here is Gibran's essay:

"I am the co-editor to the forthcoming publication of *Queer in Aztlán: Chicano Male Recollections of Consciousness and Coming Out*. The inspiration for this book stems from a commitment to a more expansive Chicana/o social justice and liberation ethos, one which envisions the Chicano/Mexicano male queer as citizen subject and human rights holder in a diversity of local communities, cultures, and society in the US. By exploring issues of

queer youth identity, sexuality, and masculinity, as well as the force of homophobia, sexism and violence in Mexican and American culture, the book presents a more complex view of queer Chicanos/Mexicanos and contests dominant sexual norms, which threaten and have in the past ended innocent lives. The book also challenges the current scholarship of Chicana and Chicano studies to expand its conceptualization of the discipline beyond the traditional confines of male sexuality and take the contributions of queer Chicanos/Mexicanos to heart.

The collection is comprised of 33 original biographical narratives, essays, poetry, and political perspectives giving expression to personal and relatively youthful discoveries of sexuality and coming-out experiences by Chicano men. Most of our authors reside or were raised in the southwestern United States, or Aztlán - the metaphorical homeland of the Chicano civil rights movement, which ironically, given the spirit and ethos of a liberation movement, excluded gay men. One hope for this anthology is that it will continue a conversation regarding same-sex desire in Aztlán, which Chicana lesbian feminists began in the 1980s, and which invited and opened new possibilities for the expression of Chicano male queer sensibilities.

The selections are voiced and some framed by Chicano/Mexicano cultural identity amidst a homophobic home culture that in some accounts give rise to suicide attempts and other forms of violence (sadly, the suicides of recent events remind us of the urgent need to address this issue responsibly as

a society). For example, the entry by Michael Nava (author of the Henry Rios mysteries) tells of his attempted suicide as a pubescent boy and his eventual recovery to a family and school environment that hardly took notice. Also, a few of the authors of the anthology are HIV/AIDS positive and openly address the significance of the disease in their lives. We are, for example, privileged to have access to original work by the late Gil Cuadros (author of *City of God* who died of AIDS) that shares a profound beauty and wisdom about the human condition. Another author who has been supportive of this anthology is Rigoberto González, author of *Butterfly Boy*, and who is a contributor as well. As a whole the selections work against essentializing what it means to be queer, Chicano/Mexicano, and/or HIV/AIDS positive by providing diverse human experiences, expressions of sexuality and, for some, spiritual epiphanies expressive of new ways of being alive and staying alive. The editors of this collection also have compiled a unique Chicano/Mexicano bibliography on the topic, which is currently unavailable anywhere. This preliminary collection of print sources gives emphasis to themes on and by queer Chicano and Mexicano authors on male sexuality, homoerotic writing, literary criticism, fiction, prose, plays, performance art, HIV/AIDS, biography, and autobiography. The target audience is decidedly Latino queer youth and undergraduate audiences of Chicana/o Studies, Ethnic Studies, Queer Studies, and Women's Studies."

At the awards ceremony, Gibran treated us with a poem he wrote which is untitled. (see page 5)

"The practice of sport is a human right." —Olympic Charter



UNTITLED by Gibran Guido

Cause when we come together, find one another in the dark,
night becomes our solace and refuge for the restlessness we carry in our hearts and souls.

As our bodies move,
sway and crash into one another.
Wave like tides crashing, joining together, for a brief moment connected, leaving
imprints in space and time, bonded together by memory and spirit.

We become more natural...
Pure
Like the sand to the sea,
The light to darkness
The blissful dream(s) followed by the terrors brought by unforgiving nightmares.

Because before you it felt like a lifetime,
An unending sleep filled with danger.
Darkness without any hope.

And love, you are that light that glowed, that brought love back to my being.

Passion I believed was extinguished.

Love, you've become the culmination of all my desires and happiness, a dream I've
dreamt, and now manifested.

Cause when we come together, find one another in the dark,

We come together sharing love.
A beacon of light.
Proof that we are truth that ecstasy can be reached through our (com)passion,

Flowing fluidly through
in and out of our bodies,
Felt with every kiss,
touch
breath
resting on every single part of your being

And what we hold

for one another

Can no longer be held by the temporality of our fragile bodies and instead become
as divine as the spirits that protect us.

IN GOOD CONSCIENCE



PFLAG San Diego, along with Call to Action – San Diego County, Dignity and the North County LGBTQ Resource Center are proud to be sponsoring the

documentary, *In Good Conscience*. Many of you were fortunate enough to see the DVD and hear Sister Jeannine Gramick speak to PFLAG in 2012. Although Sister Jeannine won't be speaking, this is a wonderful opportunity to see the documentary.

There will be two showings of the documentary: **Saturday, March 15** at the LGBT Center in Hillcrest (3909 Centre Avenue) and on **Saturday, April 12** at the Oceanside main public library, 330 North Coast Highway. The times for both are **10:00 am to noon**.

In Good Conscience tells the true story of Gramick's defiance of a Vatican edict to close down her ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics and be silent permanently about homosexuality. Her fight against this edict takes her to Rome where she attempts to confront the Vatican's chief doctrinal watchdog, Cardinal Ratzinger, who would later be Pope Benedict XVI. The documentary captures her humility, quiet determination, fortitude and humor.

WEDDING OF A LIFETIME

For San Diegans, Jesse Greika and Anthony Rollar, it was some wedding! They were one of the 33 couples married by Queen Latifah at the 2014 Grammys at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on January 26. They had been together for 10 years and were planning a wedding for April. They knew they couldn't afford a big wedding and then opportunity came knocking. Through a post on Facebook, it all slowly came to be. Before they knew it, Queen Latifah was marrying Jesse and Anthony during the Macklemore performance to "Same Love." Big congratulations.

3 OUT OF 4 IN THE UK

In early February, Scotland legalized same-sex marriage with the first weddings taking place this fall. The measure allows religious groups an "opt in" to perform same-sex marriages, which makes more sense than opting-out.

Scotland now joins England and Wales in marriage equality, where same-sex marriages will be taking place starting in March for England and Wales. The hold out is Northern Ireland. Hopefully, it's just a matter a time.

A FOND FAREWELL



Thankfully, Patti Boman's leaving the board is only farewell to the Board of Directors and not to PFLAG. Patti had been co-president for the last four years. Her infectious zeal and exuberance on the Board will be missed.

Among her other accomplishments, she was instrumental in developing and maintaining our Facebook page, Twitter account, and Blog on the website. She has traveled internationally representing PFLAG and her bilingual skills have allowed her to share her story in the worldwide Spanish speaking community and then share her experiences with us. She is a passionate advocate for equality for LGBTQ people in all arenas and has demonstrated her activism through dedication and participation in board and chapter projects and activities. She has done outreach to new people who come to PFLAG which has helped so many feel more comfortable in a foreign situation. We will never know the countless hours she has contributed on the board to insure

that PFLAG is a viable agency for change in the world. We are forever grateful for her leadership and dedication and are appreciative that she has offered to continue to work with the media sites and other areas. We look forward to her warmth at general meetings where she has touched so many by sharing the story of her journey.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to board members: Arlene Prater, Deborah Kelly, and Rachel Kelly.

Arlene served on the board as Recording Secretary for the past two years. In addition to producing first rate minutes, Arlene has been a huge supporter of the AIDS Walk and other community events.

Deborah and Rachel joined the board as representatives for the North County Inland satellite as it was experiencing some "shrinking" pains. They did extensive research trying to find a meeting site and worked with former facilitators there trying to make it remain viable. They have expressed thanks to everyone for what they have learned during their brief board tenures.

**"The Olympics have always been a little gay.
Let's Fight to keep them that way."**

—PSA by the Canadian Institute of Diversity and Inclusion
See the video here: <http://youtu.be/n4CEaoNADiY>



Diversions Theatre presents *Boys & Girls* about two couples in their early thirties, one lesbian and one gay, who have a complicated history of love and loss, struggle to overcome overwhelming obstacles in order to grow up, settle down, and raise a child. But not necessarily in that order.

The performances, from **February 20-March 23**, begin at 8:00 pm on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and at 2:00 pm on Sundays. Tickets are \$25.00. For seniors and military with ID they are \$22.50, and students with ID are \$15.00.

The Diversions Theatre is big supporters of PFLAG San Diego for which we are very grateful. We hope you will

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

A group of Mennonites in Colorado has put forward an openly gay candidate for ordained ministry. If confirmed, Theda Good would be the first openly LGBT minister ordained by the Mennonite Church.

Theda Good is on staff at the First Mennonite Church of Denver, where she was licensed as "pastor of nurture and fellowship," according to Religion News Service. Good's ordination must be approved by the Mountain States Conference of Mennonites, which is part of the Mennonite Church USA, the collective body of regional Mennonite communities.

Mennonites are a Christian denomination that trace their roots back to the Reformation in the 1500s. Belief and practices vary widely among different faith communities, but, according to the Mennonite church's website, "following Jesus in daily life is a central value, along with peacemaking." They share historical roots with the Amish, and there are an estimated one million members worldwide.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Each month we will feature a board member (their bio) so that you can know who is behind the scenes of making our PFLAG chapter tick.

First on the hit parade is Treasurer and North County Coastal Regional Rep, **JoyLynn Murray**.

Hello PFLAG members. Before I tell you about myself, I want to tell you how much I appreciate the time you take to keep up with PFLAG and what we are doing in our community. It is the parents and families of the LGBTQ community who will truly bring about the change and progress we all work for. So thank you for the time, interest, energy and financial support you give to PFLAG.

I joined the board of San Diego PFLAG in 2013 as the North County Coastal Regional Representative. About the time I joined the board, the treasurer for the past many years was retiring so I stepped into that role, as well. I have also been an active volunteer with what was once called the North County Coalition and is now officially the North County LGBTQ Resource Center in Oceanside. The resource center has been open for two years now and I am very proud to co-chair their annual Gala – the largest

fundraiser for the center. Supporting the growth and day to day operations of the center is something I am very passionate about as is furthering the work of PFLAG. We have a vibrant and growing satellite PFLAG group that meets at the center in Oceanside. If you are in our area, please join us!

I am a married mother of 5 “his and hers” kids. Our now 24 year old daughter came out to us in high school and started our family on a journey of discovery and growth that we were happy to take with her. We did not have any shock or despair associated with her coming out and I am fortunate to be in a very open and progressive family. But even with our total acceptance of her sexuality, I quickly realized there was so much I didn’t know or understand. I didn’t want to hurt or burden my daughter by asking her too many questions and she was still figuring a lot out for herself. She needed my support and strength – not my questions. So I went on a mission to shorten my learning curve. PFLAG was my first phone call and the fact that a group met in North County meant I had the in-person support that was so important. I cannot begin to express how valuable PFLAG has been. Being able to sit with other

people on the same journey and share our stories, our concerns, our questions and our joys has meant the world to me. Having access to local resources made all the difference and it is for that very reason that I stay committed to, not only PFLAG, but the North County Resource Center.



I truly hope, no matter where you are on your journey, that you will spend some time with PFLAG. If you are struggling – we can help. If you are confused – we can help. If you are joyously celebrating – we want to celebrate with you! You never know what you might share in a meeting that will help someone find their own peace and their own voice. It happens in PFLAG meetings all around the world, every day. You may not feel you “need” PFLAG, but please don’t doubt that PFLAG needs you! Your story can change someone’s life.

I welcome any questions or comments you may have. Please feel free to email me and please be sure to say hello should our paths cross.

ON, WISCONSIN

Same-sex couples in Wisconsin joined others throughout the country in filing a lawsuit seeking same-sex marriage, but efforts there are unique because of the penalties for marrying in another jurisdiction.

The litigation seeks not only to overturn the state’s 2006 constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage, but also to enjoin state officials from enforcing a “marriage evasion law” prohibiting couples

— gay and straight — from going elsewhere to marry if the marriage would be prohibited in the state.

The penalties of violating the marriage evasion law in Wisconsin, which is the only state to have such a statute, include up to \$10,000 in fines and nine months in prison.

The lawsuit, *Wolf and Schumacher v. Walker*, was filed by the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), the

ACLU of Wisconsin and Mayer Brown LLP and is pending before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. It is being filed by four same-sex couples.

Like other lawsuits filed throughout the country, the 29-page complaint filed by the groups in Wisconsin alleges the state’s ban on same-sex marriage violates equal protection and due process under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
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